

May 1, 2008

Dear Friend:

As your Congresswoman, I take great pride in representing California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, home to one of the most diverse Asian American communities in this country. In 1992, Congress passed the law that officially designated May as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month" to recognize the Asian and Pacific Islander American community and its history and accomplishments.

In recognition and celebration of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month, I would like to congratulate the Vietnamese community for all your successes. Your successes play a vital economic and cultural role in my district. I would like to provide you with a legislative update on my work and the progress that the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress has made on issues of importance to the Vietnamese community.

**Anniversary of Bloc 8406 Manifesto**

On April 8, the two-year anniversary of the signing of the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, commonly referred to as Bloc 8406, I introduced H.Res. 1089, a house resolution that calls for an end to the imprisonment, detention, and harassment of the Vietnamese signers of the manifesto. In addition, my resolution asks President Bush to call for the release of imprisoned U.S. citizen, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan. Further, H. Res. 1089 calls for the Secretary of State to establish a Countries of Particular Concern list based on human rights violations, to condemn nations like Vietnam.

**H.R. 4007 – Amerasian Paternity Recognition Act**

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4007, the Amerasian Paternity Recognition Act also known as the "Amerasian Naturalization Act". This bipartisan bill will amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide U.S. citizenship for the children of U.S. servicemen born abroad, more specifically children born during the Vietnam War.

**The U.S. and Vietnam Repatriation Agreement**

On January 22, 2008, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the United States and Vietnam signed a memorandum of agreement (MOU), which will allow for the repatriation of Vietnam citizens who entered the United States on or after July 12, 1995.

In response, I issued a letter of concern on January 23, 2008, asking Secretary Michael Chertoff for greater transparency of the agreement and seeking a halt to the MOU's implementation until approved by Congress. I also issued a letter requesting a meeting with Secretary Chertoff and my colleagues to follow up with the MOU's implementations.

**Vietnam Human Rights Act Unanimously Passes House**

On September 18, 2007, I cosponsored H.R. 3096, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, which passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 414 to 3. The bill promotes freedom and democracy in Vietnam and prohibits additional U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress in the release of political and religious prisoners; providing religious freedom and improving human rights; preventing human trafficking; and affording Vietnamese nationals access to U.S. refugee programs. The bill has been referred to the Senate, where it awaits further action.

Throughout my years of work with the Vietnamese-American community, I have been involved in the struggles, challenges, and successes of the Vietnamese people. Your accomplishments, as individuals, and collectively, are a testament to your dedication to your community. It has been a privilege serving you in Congress, and I will continue to work to improve the quality of life in the 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress